This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-31 (Previously canceled).

Claim 32 (Previously presented): A tool assembly comprising:

an anvil and a cartridge assembly, the cartridge assembly having a plurality of staples and being movable in relation to the anvil between an open position and an approximated position, the cartridge assembly and the anvil defining a tissue gap in the approximated position;

a clamp collar positioned adjacent the proximal end of the cartridge assembly and the anvil and being movable from a first position to a second position to effect movement of the anvil in relation to the cartridge assembly from the open position towards the approximated position, wherein in the second position, the clamp collar is positioned about the proximal ends of the cartridge assembly and anvil;

a dynamic clamping member movably positioned in relation to the anvil and the cartridge assembly from a first position located at a proximal end of the tool assembly to a second position located at a distal end of the tool assembly, the dynamic clamping member being configured to slidably engage the anvil and the cartridge assembly to define a maximum tissue gap between the anvil and the cartridge assembly adjacent the dynamic clamping member during ejection of the plurality of staples from the cartridge assembly; and

at least one pulley operatively associated with the dynamic clamping member to effect movement of the dynamic clamping member from the first position to the second position to

effect ejection of staples from the cartridge assembly.

Claim 33 (Previously presented): A tool assembly according to Claim 32, wherein the plurality of staples are aligned in a plurality of linear rows.

Claim 34 (Previously presented): A tool assembly according to Claim 32, further including a sled which is movable with the dynamic clamping member through the cartridge assembly from a first position to a subsequent position to operatively eject the plurality of staples from the cartridge assembly through tissue and against the anvil assembly to staple tissue disposed between the anvil assembly and the cartridge assembly.

Claim 35 (Previously presented): A tool assembly according to Claim 34, wherein the dynamic clamping member includes a first mechanical interface which slidingly engages the anvil assembly and a second mechanical interface which slidably engages the cartridge assembly, the first and second mechanical interfaces of the dynamic clamping member being in substantial vertical registration relative to one another to oppose expansive forces associated with clamping and stapling tissue and to define the maximum tissue gap between tissue contacting surfaces of the anvil and the cartridge assembly during stapling.

Claim 36 (Currently amended): A ~~surgical stapler~~ tool assembly according to Claim 32, further including a sled which is movable with the dynamic clamping member through the cartridge assembly from a first position to a subsequent position to operatively eject the plurality

of staples from the cartridge assembly through tissue and against the anvil assembly to staple tissue disposed between the anvil assembly and the cartridge assembly.

Claims 37-38 (Previously canceled).

Claim 39 (Currently amended): A ~~surgical stapler~~ tool assembly according to Claim 32, wherein the at least one pulley cooperates with a material that is selected from the group consisting of cables, ropes, threads, bands and belts.

Claim 40 (Currently amended): A ~~surgical stapler~~ tool assembly according to Claim 32, further including a sled, the sled being movable through the cartridge assembly to eject the plurality of staples from the cartridge assembly.

Claim 41 (Currently amended): A ~~surgical stapler~~ tool assembly according to Claim 40, wherein the at least one pulley is operably connected to the sled and the sled is operably connected to the dynamic clamping member.

Claim 42 (Currently amended): A ~~surgical stapler~~ tool assembly according to Claim 32, wherein movement of the dynamic clamping member from the first position to the second position effects sequential ejection of staples from the cartridge assembly.

Claim 43 (New): A tool assembly according to Claim 32, wherein the at least one pulley

is disposed distally of a distal end of the dynamic clamping collar.

Claim 44 (New): A tool assembly according to Claim 32, wherein the at least one pulley is disposed on a portion of the cartridge assembly.

Claim 45 (New): A tool assembly according to Claim 32, wherein the at least one pulley is disposed on a distal portion of the cartridge assembly.

Claim 46 (New): A tool assembly according to Claim 39, wherein a portion of the material is disposed in mechanical cooperation with a distal portion of the dynamic clamping member.

Claim 47 (New): A tool assembly according to Claim 46, wherein the at least one pulley is disposed on a distal portion of the cartridge assembly.

Claim 48 (New): A tool assembly comprising:

an anvil and a cartridge assembly, the cartridge assembly having a plurality of staples and being movable in relation to the anvil between an open position and an approximated position, the cartridge assembly and the anvil defining a tissue gap in the approximated position;

a clamp collar positioned adjacent the proximal end of the cartridge assembly and the anvil and being movable from a first position to a second position to effect movement of the anvil in relation to the cartridge assembly from the open position towards the approximated

position, wherein in the second position, the clamp collar is positioned about the proximal ends of the cartridge assembly and anvil; and

a dynamic clamping member movably positioned in relation to the anvil and the cartridge assembly from a first position located at a proximal end of the tool assembly to a second position located at a distal end of the tool assembly, the dynamic clamping member being configured to slidably engage the anvil and the cartridge assembly to define a maximum tissue gap between the anvil and the cartridge assembly adjacent the dynamic clamping member during ejection of the plurality of staples from the cartridge assembly.

Claim 49 (New): A tool assembly according to Claim 48, wherein the plurality of staples are aligned in a plurality of linear rows.

Claim 50 (New): A tool assembly according to Claim 48, further including a sled which is movable with the dynamic clamping member through the cartridge assembly from a first position to a subsequent position to operatively eject the plurality of staples from the cartridge assembly through tissue and against the anvil assembly to staple tissue disposed between the anvil assembly and the cartridge assembly.

Claim 51 (New): A tool assembly according to Claim 50, wherein the dynamic clamping member includes a first mechanical interface which slidingly engages the anvil assembly and a second mechanical interface which slidably engages the cartridge assembly, the first and second mechanical interfaces of the dynamic clamping member being in substantial vertical registration

relative to one another to oppose expansive forces associated with clamping and stapling tissue and to define the maximum tissue gap between tissue contacting surfaces of the anvil and the cartridge assembly during stapling.

Claim 52 (New): A tool assembly according to Claim 48, further including a sled which is movable with the dynamic clamping member through the cartridge assembly from a first position to a subsequent position to operatively eject the plurality of staples from the cartridge assembly through tissue and against the anvil assembly to staple tissue disposed between the anvil assembly and the cartridge assembly.

Claim 53 (New): A tool assembly according to Claim 48, further including a sled, the sled being movable through the cartridge assembly to eject the plurality of staples from the cartridge assembly.

Claim 54 (New): A tool assembly according to Claim 48, wherein movement of the dynamic clamping member from the first position to the second position effects sequential ejection of staples from the cartridge assembly.